

Appl. No.: 09/893,419
Filed: June 29, 2001
Amdt. dated 03/01/2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting an item from a predetermined set of menu items organized in a menu comprising a first and second menu levels, the apparatus comprising:
 - a user interface comprising an input having a plurality of actuators, and an output;
 - control means for controlling the user interface to provide a first menu selection corresponding to the first menu level and comprising a first number of menu items not exceeding the number of actuators, wherein different menu items are associated with different actuators; and
 - selection means responsive to operation of any one of the actuators for selecting from the menu a first item associated with the operated actuator;wherein the control means is configured to control the user interface to provide, corresponding to the second menu level, a second menu selection comprising a second number of menu items in response to selection of the first item so that at least one menu item of the second menu selection represents a subset of the first item, the second number being less than the first number and the actuator operated to select the first item is never associated with a menu item of the second selection.
2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first input comprises key means.
3. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein plurality of actuators of the key means are keys.

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4. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input comprises a multipositional device.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the multipositional device is a joystick.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second menu selection comprises less items than the number of actuators.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a user interface to select an item from a predetermined set of items organized in a menu comprising a first and second menu levels starting from the first menu level followed by the second menu level, the user interface comprising an input having a plurality of actuators, and an output; the method comprising:

controlling the user interface to provide a first menu selection corresponding to the first menu level and comprising a first number of menu items not exceeding the number of actuators;
associating different menu items with different actuators;

in response to operation of the actuators, selecting from the menu a first item associated with the operated actuator;

controlling the user interface to provide, corresponding to the second menu level, a second menu selection comprising a second number of menu items in response to selection of the first item and to represent a subset of the first item, wherein the second number is less than the first number and the actuator operated to select the first item is never associated with a menu item of the second menu selection.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the second menu selection comprises a plurality of items not exceeding the number of actuators.

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13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the further menu selection comprises a plurality of items not exceeding the number of actuators.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the further menu selection comprises a plurality of items not exceeding the number of actuators.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the further menu selection comprises a plurality of items not exceeding the number of actuators.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the further menu selection comprises a plurality of items not exceeding the number of actuators.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the further menu selection comprises a plurality of items not exceeding the number of actuators.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control means has been further configured to control the user interface to associate one of the actuators with a back function and on operation of the key associated with the back function to return from the second menu level to the first menu level.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising associating one of the actuators with a back function and on operation of the key associated with the back function returning from the second menu level to the first menu level.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the input is a multipositional device.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the multipositional device is a joystick.

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25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting an item from a predetermined set of menu items organized in a menu comprising a first menu level and a second menu level, the apparatus comprising:

a user interface comprising an input having a plurality of actuators, and an output;

control means for controlling the user interface to provide a first menu level comprising no more menu items than the number of actuators, wherein different actuators are associated with different menu items;

selection means responsive to operation of any one of the actuators for selecting from the first menu level a menu item to which the operated actuator is associated,

wherein the control means is configured to control the user interface to provide a second menu level, dependent upon the identity of the selected menu item, that has less menu items than the number of actuators and wherein one or more of the actuators, but never the ~~operated~~ actuator operated to select the first item, are each associated with a different menu item of the second level.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting an item from a predetermined set of menu items organized in a menu comprising a first menu level and a second menu level, the apparatus comprising:

a user interface comprising an input having a plurality of actuators, and an output;

control means for controlling the user interface to provide a first menu level comprising no more menu items than the number of actuators, wherein different actuators are associated with different menu items;

selection means responsive to operation of any one of the actuators for selecting from the first menu level a menu item to which the operated actuator is associated;

wherein the control means is configured to control the user interface to provide for each of the menu items of the first level, when selected, a second menu level, dependent upon the identity of the selected menu item, that has less menu items than the number of actuators and wherein one or more of the actuators, but not the ~~operated~~ actuator operated to select the first item, are each associated with a different menu item of the second level.

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27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting an item from a predetermined set of menu items organized in a menu comprising a first menu level and a second menu level, the apparatus comprising:

a user interface comprising an input having a plurality of actuators, and an output;

control means for controlling the user interface to provide a first menu level comprising no more menu items than the number of actuators, wherein different actuators are associated with different menu items;

selection means responsive to operation of any one of the actuators for selecting from the first menu level a menu item to which the operated actuator is associated;

wherein the control means is configured to control the user interface to provide a second menu level, dependent upon the identity of the selected menu item, that has less menu items than the number of actuators, wherein each menu item of the second level is associated with a different actuator chosen from the group comprising the plurality of actuators but excluding the operated actuator operated to select the first item.